

REMARKS

This paper is submitted following the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due dated October 24, 2006 (the “Notice of Allowance”), and the Supplemental Notice of Allowability dated January 10, 2007 (the “Supplemental Notice of Allowance”).

Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for the telephone discussions on January 18 and 23, 2007 regarding the Examiner’s Amendment that accompanied the Supplemental Notice of Allowance. Following those discussions, Applicant understands that this Examiner’s Amendment was intended to reflect the claims that had been provided in Applicant’s Amendment under Rule 1.312, filed on December 20, 2006. The above amendments are submitted to clarify the claims by correcting a clerical error that appeared in claim 1 within the Examiner’s Amendment. Claims 1, 7 and 13 have also been amended above with regard to matters of form, to more clearly indicate the claimed subject matter. The amendments add no new matter.

Accordingly, this paper and the accompanying RCE are submitted to withdraw the application from issue so that the above amendments may be entered. Section 1308(I)(A) of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (ed. 8, rev. 5) provides:

If the applicant wishes to have an application withdrawn from issue, he or she must petition the Director under 37 CFR 1.313(a) or file a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 with a submission and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). A submission may be an information disclosure statement (37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98) or an amendment. . . . If an applicant files a RCE (with the fee and a submission), the applicant need not pay the issue fee to avoid abandonment of the application.

Further, 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(a) provides that a petition to withdraw from issue “is not required if a request for continued examination under § 1.114 is filed prior to payment of the issue fee.”

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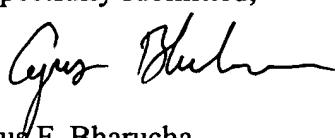
Applicant therefore requests entry of the above amendments in view of the accompanying RCE. Applicant submits that all claims remain in a condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on January 24, 2007.


Attorney for Applicant

2007 Jan 24
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Cyrus F. Bharucha
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,324
Telephone: (512) 439-5097
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099